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The combine's steelworkers have also made great technological improvements with the subsequent production increases. The present recovery of steel per square meter of furnace sole is 100 kilograms higher than in 1945. The steel-smelting shop plans to convert to the use of welded buckets with a larger capacity than riveted buckets, and will increase the weight of each melt in open-hearth furnaces by 15 tons. The rail-structural shop, standard-section steel shop, and others also have had production increases. Rolling-mill workers have achieved a world record in productivity (1). There was some feeling that a further increase in the output of commercial rolled steel was limited by the planned capacity of the blooming mill. However, the blooming mill in its second year is producing more than 20 percent above its planned capacity (2). Output of high-quality production has increased sharply. Output of first grade rails is now 96-97 percent as compared with 87 percent in 1945.

Labor productivity in the combine in 1949 increased 38 percent over 1946, including 48 percent in the blast-furnace shop. In 3 years 9 months, the saving from reductions in production costs above plan amounted to 100 million rubles. In 1948, the enterprise started to operate at a profit and realized 26.2 million rubles' profits (1).

By 28 October, the combine had completed its 10-month steel-smelting plan. Both open-hearth furnace shops are obtaining high recoveries of steel. In 26 days of October, steelworkers completed 140 high-speed melts (3).

SOURCES

1. Pravda, No 298, 25 Oct 49
2. Pravda, No 286, 13 Oct 49
3. Izvestiya, No 255, 28 Oct 49

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